GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5119
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE DUE TO RISE IN SEA LEVEL
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding 'warming will trigger huge exodus' reported in the Times of India dated March 27, 2008;

(b) whether the Government has made any study about the number of people displaced due to rise in sea level in various coasts / cities of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; State-wise and location-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b)&(c) No, Sir. However, a broad assessment of vulnerabilities of the coastal zone of India has been made in the National Communication of climate change. These results show that the impacts of rise in sea level may result in land loss and population displacement.

(d) The government has initiated several steps to address the problem of climate change. Recently, the Government has set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also constituted and Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor the Cabinet.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to create a high-priority Program to address issues of Global and Regional Climate Change. The program will establish research networks of leading National research groups and research centers involved in allied areas by supporting collaborative research on important issues of national relevance including impacts on coastal zone.